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Did 2025 Almost End with a Bang?

The Novgorod Incident and the Nuclear Threat

On a Monday morning in late December 2025, reports emerged indicating that Ukraine had launched a drone swarm targeting President Vladimir Putin’s residence in the Novgorod region. The Russian government claimed to have intercepted all incoming drones and warned that its response would not be diplomatic. To signal the gravity of the situation, Russia’s Doomsday Radio began broadcasting "Swan Lake," a traditional indication of an incipient national emergency.

The implications of an assassination attempt on the leader of the world’s largest nuclear power are profound. Analysts such as Scott Ritter have noted that such an attack meets the criteria established in the 2024 Fundamentals of State Policy of the Russian Federation on Nuclear Deterrence. Under these protocols, an attempted decapitation strike could automatically trigger a massive nuclear retaliation against Europe. A genuine attempt to kill Putin would typically be war-gamed as part of a comprehensive first-strike strategy aimed at destroying Russia's entire retaliatory capacity; a standalone drone swarm, however, lacks this military logic.

Evaluating the Military Rationale

From a strategic perspective, an isolated drone strike on the Russian president makes little sense. Such an action would essentially mandate a legal Russian nuclear response against the West. Even if extremist elements within Ukraine were responsible, the move would be suicidal, as Ukraine would be the first nation destroyed in the ensuing escalation.

Because there is no clear military advantage to a genuine but limited assassination attempt, it is more likely that the operation was designed to fail. This suggests that drones may have been directed toward the residence as a symbolic gesture or a "warning shot," rather than a sincere effort to eliminate the head of state.

Theories of Internal Sabotage and Negotiation Tactics

Several theories have emerged regarding the true architects of this incident:

- Internal Ukrainian Conflict: Former CIA analyst Larry Johnson suggests the attack may have been staged by elements within the Kyiv government to undermine President Volodymyr Zelensky. The timing coincided with Zelensky's visit to the United States to negotiate with President Donald Trump. Johnson posits that intelligence personnel, potentially acting under the direction of HUR chief Kirill Budanov, may have attempted to sabotage peace mediations because they profit from the continued conflict.
- Coercive Diplomacy by U.S. Neocons: Another possibility is that neoconservative elements within the Trump administration orchestrated the event to intimidate Putin. This "warning shot" approach mirrors past strategies used against Iran, where the threat of assassination was employed to disorient opponents and force concessions during negotiations. This tactic aligns with a reckless, aggressive style of negotiation intended to establish a position of superiority.

The Influence of Zionist Neocons

The author attributes these Machiavellian strategies to a specific group of influential Zionist neoconservatives. These figures are described as prioritizing aggressive, symbolic behavior to gain an edge in international relations. The author suggests that President Trump, influenced by these advisors, may have permitted a symbolic strike to "soften" Putin’s position for upcoming talks. While Trump publicly labeled the attempt as "not good," the author remains skeptical of such public pronouncements.

Conclusion

The alleged drone strike on Putin’s residence appears to be a combination of internal Ukrainian political maneuvering and aggressive American negotiation tactics. While the world may have narrowly avoided a nuclear catastrophe, the incident highlights the volatile nature of current global tensions. As 2025 concludes, the international community remains in a state of high alert, hoping for a more stable 2026.